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PATENT  
Attorney Docket No. ADI-097

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

APPLICANT(S): Taniguchi *et al.* CONFIRMATION NO. 8149  
SERIAL NO.: 10/717,985 GROUP NO.: 1733  
FILING DATE: November 20, 2003 EXAMINER: Barbara J. Musser  
TITLE: THREE-DIMENSIONAL PANELS FOR A GAME BALL AND  
RELATED METHODS

**CERTIFICATE OF FIRST CLASS MAILING UNDER 37 C.F.R. 1.8**

I hereby certify that this correspondence, and any document(s) referred to as enclosed herein, is/are being deposited with the United States Postal Service as first class mail, postage prepaid, in an envelope addressed to Mail Stop Amendment, Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450 on this 29th day of June, 2005.

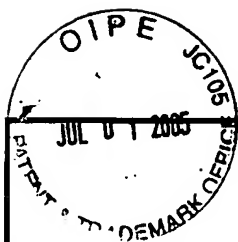
  
Carrah Malone

Mail Stop Amendment  
Commissioner for Patents  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

Submitted herewith is/are:

1. Transmittal Form (1 page);
2. Response to Restriction Requirement (1 page); and
3. Return Receipt Postcard



# TRANSMITTAL FORM

Application Serial Number	10/717,985
Filing Date	November 20, 2003
First Named Inventor	Taniguchi
Group Art Unit	1733
Examiner Name	Barbara J. Musser
Attorney Docket No.	ADI-097
Patent No.	Not applicable
Issue Date	Not applicable


## ENCLOSURES (check all that apply)

- |   |   |  |
|---|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Fee Transmittal Form<br><input type="checkbox"/> Check Attached<br><input type="checkbox"/> Copy of Fee Transmittal Form<br><input type="checkbox"/> Amendment/Response<br><input type="checkbox"/> Second Preliminary<br><input type="checkbox"/> After Final<br><input type="checkbox"/> Affidavits/declaration(s)<br><input type="checkbox"/> Letter to Official Draftsperson<br><br><input type="checkbox"/> Petition for Extension of Time<br><br><input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement<br><input type="checkbox"/> Form PTO-1449<br><input type="checkbox"/> Copies of IDS Citations<br><br><input type="checkbox"/> Certified Copy of Priority Document(s)<br><input type="checkbox"/> Sequence Listing submission<br><input type="checkbox"/> Paper Copy/CD<br><input type="checkbox"/> Computer Readable Copy<br><input type="checkbox"/> Statement verifying identity of above | <input type="checkbox"/> Copy of Notice to File Missing Parts of Application<br><br><input type="checkbox"/> Formal Drawing(s)<br><br><input type="checkbox"/> Request For Continued Examination (RCE)<br><br><input type="checkbox"/> Power of Attorney (Revocation of Prior Powers)<br><br><input type="checkbox"/> Terminal Disclaimer<br><br><input type="checkbox"/> Executed Declaration and Power of Attorney for Utility or Design Patent Application<br><br><input type="checkbox"/> Small Entity Statement<br><br><input type="checkbox"/> CD(s) for large table or computer program<br><br><input type="checkbox"/> Amendment After Allowance<br><input type="checkbox"/> Request for Certificate of Correction<br><input type="checkbox"/> Certificate of Correction (in duplicate) | <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Appeal to Board of Patent Appeals and Interferences<br><br><input type="checkbox"/> Appeal Brief (in triplicate)<br><br><input type="checkbox"/> Status Inquiry<br><br><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Return Receipt Postcard<br><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Certificate of First Class Mailing under 37 C.F.R. 1.8<br><br><input type="checkbox"/> Certificate of Facsimile Transmission under 37 C.F.R. 1.8<br><br><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Additional Enclosure(s) (please identify below)<br><br>- Response to Restriction Requirement (1 page) |
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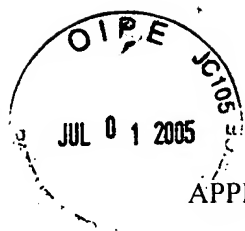
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Respectfully submitted,  
  
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**RESPONSE TO REQUIREMENT FOR RESTRICTION AND SPECIES ELECTION**

This paper responds to an Office action mailed from the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office on June 2, 2005, in connection with the above-identified patent application.

The Examiner has required the Applicants to elect one of two perceived patentably distinct groups of claims: Group I (claims 1-23, and 25-31), or Group II (claims 24 and 32). Applicants hereby elect, without traverse, **Group I (claims 1-23, and 25-31)** drawn to methods of making a game ball and a panel therefor, and reserve the right to pursue non-elected claims in one or more related applications.

In addition, the Examiner has identified two perceived patentably distinct species of the claimed invention,

- Species A, in which the top layer is formed prior to forming the backing layer; and
- Species B, in which the backing layer is formed prior to forming the top layer.

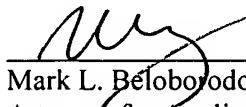
In the event no generic claim is ultimately held to be allowable, Applicants hereby elect, with traverse, the species in which the top layer is formed prior to forming the backing layer (**Species A**). Claims of Group I readable on this species include **claims 1-5, 8-23, and 25-31**. Applicants respectfully traverse the species election requirement insofar as a search for publications relating to any of the species would reveal publications relating to any of the other species and, thus, would not impose a serious burden on the Examiner. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request that the species election be withdrawn. Applicants reserve the right to pursue claims readable on any of the non-elected species in one or more related applications if the species election requirements are maintained.

Applicants respectfully request that the application now proceed promptly to examination. Applicants believe that no additional fees are necessitated by the present Response. However, in the event that any additional fees are due, the Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any such fees to Deposit Account No. 07-1700.

Respectfully submitted,

Date: June 29, 2005

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